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Message Text

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S - LPBREMER
---------- 037008
R 111512Z AUG 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175398

EXDIS - INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: SECRETARY KISSINGER MEETS OAU CHIEFS OF MISSION

1. SECRETARY MET WITH THIRTY-ONE AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES D'AFFAIRES REPRESENTING OAU STATES AT DEPARTMENT 9:00 A.M. AUGUST 10 AS PART OF SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH HEADS OF ALL WASHINGTON DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF MEETING IS BASED ON UNCLEARED MEMCON:

2. SECRETARY EXPRESSED PLEASURE WITH THIS FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH OAU AMBASSADORS AS GROUP. HE SAID HE WAS DOING SO AT REQUEST OF PRESIDENT FORD ON OCCASION OF HIS ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE. PRESIDENT WISHED HIM TO EMPHASIZE TO THEM PERSONALLY WHAT HE HAD ALREADY STRESSED PUBLICLY, THAT THERE WOULD BE CONTINUITY IN POLICIES FOLLOWED BY PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TO FUNCTION IN DUAL CAPACITY AS SECRETARY OF STATE AND ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS.
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U.S. POLICIES WITH WHICH CHIEFS OF MISSION WERE ALREADY

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FAMILIAR WILL BE CONTINUED AND DAY-TO-DAY PROCEDURES TO
WHICH THEY WERE ACCUSTOMED HERE WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED.

3. SECRETARY RECALLED THAT WITHIN WEEK OF ASSUMING OFFICE
HE HAD MET WITH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS AND

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW YORK AND HAD TOLD THEM
HE HOPED SOON TO VISIT AFRICA AND TO ACQUAINT HIMSELF
MORE WIDELY WITH AFRICAN QUESTIONS. WITHIN TWO WEEKS
OF THAT TIME MIDDLE EAST CRISIS OCCURRED AND OTHER
EVENTS FOLLOWED OF WHICH THEY WERE AWARE, BUT HE
NEVERTHELESS WISHED TO ASSURE CHIEFS OF MISSION THAT HE
TOOK AFRICA AND ITS PROBLEMS SERIOUSLY. U. S., HE
STRESSED, WAS ENCOURAGED BY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN
PORTUGUESE AFRICAN TERRITORIES. IT WOULD, HE SAID, BE
OUR POLICY TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS
AS THEY PURSUED THEIR STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM, DIGNITY AND
NATIONAL SELF-RESPECT.

4. THE LAST FEW MONTHS, SECRETARY CONTINUED, HAD BEEN
DIFFICULT ONES FOR AMERICA BUT HE SAID CHIEFS OF MISSION
COULD BE SURE THAT AMERICANS WOULD COME OUT OF THIS
EXPERIENCE STRONGER THAN EVER. PRESIDENT FORD, HE SAID,
HAS STRONG CONGRESSIONAL BASE OF SUPPORT AND WILL HAVE
WIDE PUBLIC SUPPORT IN PRESIDENCY.

5. SECRETARY ASSURED AUDIENCE THAT U. S. WOULD CONTINUE
ITS AID PROGRAMS IN AFRICA AND, IN PARTICULAR, AID WE
ARE PROVIDING TO DROUGHT-AFFECTED STATES. HE AGAIN
EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH AFRICAN
REPRESENTATIVES AND HOPED IT WOULD SOON BE POSSIBLE TO
REASSEMBLE SAME GROUP FOR MORE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS.
HE ASSURED HIS LISTENERS HE WOULD ALWAYS RESERVE SOME
PART OF HIS ENERGIES TO DEVOTE TO MATTERS OF CONCERN TO
THEM.

6. AMBASSADOR PEAL (LIBERIA), DEAN OF AFRICAN
DIPLOMATS, THANKED SECRETARY FOR FINDING TIME AMID BUSY
EVENTS OF THIS WEEK TO MEET WITH OAU REPRESENTATIVES.
HE CONGRATULATED SECRETARY ON THEIR BEHALF ON PAST
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ACHIEVEMENTS AND WISHED HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS IN
CREATING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATER PEACE IN
WORLD. HE REALIZED AFRICAN CONCERNS WERE NOT HIGH ON
LIST FOR SECRETARY'S ATTENTION AT THIS TIME BUT ASSURED
SECRETARY OF READINESS OF OAU AMBASSADORS TO DISCUSS
SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS WITH HIM WHENEVER TIME PERMITTED.
AFRICAN EMBASSIES ARE HERE, PEAL SAID, TO LEND SECRETARY
ALL SUPPORT HE NEEDS IN SEARCH FOR GREATER PEACE AND

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COOPERATION IN WORLD. THEY WOULD AWAIT HIS CALL. KISSINGER

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